

LAND USE SERVICES DEPARTMENT

ADVANCE PLANNING DIVISION
385 North Arrowhead Avenue • San Bernardino, CA 92415-0182
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COUNTY OF SAN BERNARDINO
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
AND PUBLIC SERVICES GROUP

MICHAEL E. HAYS
Director

March 30, 2005

INTERESTED ORGANIZATIONS AND INDIVIDUALS

RE: NOTICE OF INTENT TO ADOPT A MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION FOR THE ADDITION OF A 35-ACRE BORROW AREA AT THE MOLYCORP MOUNTAIN PASS MINE

Dear Reader/Reviewer:

The Initial Study (IS) is for the proposed removal of borrow material from the planned footprint of the West Overburden Stockpile for use in the final closure covers of the West Tailings Pond (P-1) and the North Tailings Pond (P-16) in compliance with Regional Water Quality Control Board Lahontan Region (LRWQCB) Orders No.6-00-74 and R6V-2004-0042. The purpose of this document is to identify and describe the probable environmental impacts that would result from implementation of the proposed project. The proposed project is located on private land in the unincorporated community of Mountain Pass, 35 miles east of Baker at the junction of I-15 and Bailey Road in the County of San Bernardino.

The document has been prepared to meet the State requirements of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). The County is using the "Tiering" concept with a recently certified Environmental Impact Report (EIR) in the review of this project per Section 15152 of the CEQA Guidelines (as amended September 7, 2004). The prior EIR to be used for tiering is entitled "EIR for MolyCorp's, Inc. Mountain Pass Mine 30-Year Plan" (SCH. No. 1999121073) and was certified by the San Bernardino County Planning Commission on July 8, 2004. The County will refer to this certified EIR in the analysis of the potential environmental impacts of the proposed project and apply appropriate prior mitigation measures.

A copy of the Initial Study and the referenced EIR are available for review at the following location:

San Bernardino County Land Use Services Department
385 North Arrowhead Avenue, 1st Floor
San Bernardino, CA 92415-0182

The public comment period will start on April 1, 2005 and end on May 2, 2005. For further information, call Randy Scott, Advanced Planning at 909-387-4147. The environmental documents may be viewed on the County's website at: www.sbcounty.gov/landservices; click Public Notices or Draft EIRs/EAs. Written comments should be addressed to:

County of San Bernardino
Land Use Services Department, Advanced Planning Division
385 North Arrowhead Avenue, 1st Floor
San Bernardino, CA 92415-0182

Sincerely,

Land Use Services,
Advanced Planning Staff

MARK UFFER
County Administrative Officer

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